

## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

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Curtis L. Schrandt

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S)

Peter J. Wilk

SERIAL NO.

09/678,134

**FILED** 

10/04/2000

**FOR** 

METHOD FOR CLOSING OFF LOWER PORTION OF

HEART VALVE

**GROUP ART UNIT** 

3747

**EXAMINER** 

ODLAND, Kathryn P.

RECEIVED

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 1 2 2004

**TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700** 

## AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

SIR:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 10, 2003, in the above-identified application, applicant respectfully requests that the examiner reconsider the § 103 rejections of the claims in light of the following observations and arguments. In addition, applicant requests that the claims (claim 18 only) be amended as follows.